

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting audio information, the method comprising:

modifying an original audio stream into a modified stream and complementary information, wherein a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format of the original audio stream, wherein the modified stream is distorted with respect to the original audio stream by modifying, replacing, substituting, and/or moving at least one element of an audio block of the original audio stream, and wherein the complementary information provides information to permit a decoder to reconstitute the original audio stream from the modified stream;

transmitting the modified stream to target equipment; and

transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information to the target equipment.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information to the target equipment comprises:

accessing a data profile of the target equipment; and

determining, based on the data profile, the subset of the complementary information to be transmitted to the target equipment.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said data profile comprises at least one component relating to the target equipment and selected from the group consisting of: payment data; preferences; environment; habits; and characteristics.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein at least a portion of said data profile resides at the target equipment.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said data profile includes an indication of rights of a user to access content of the original audio stream.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting the modified stream comprises storing the modified main stream on a physical storage medium.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting the modified stream and said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information utilize a common transmission medium.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting the modified stream and said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information utilize separate transmission media.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information utilizes a transmission medium different from that used for said transmitting the modified stream.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the transmission utilized for said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information is selected from the group consisting of: an analog telephone line; a digital telephone line; a digital subscriber line; a local radio loop; a digital audio broadcasting channel; a commutated telephone network; and a wireless digital telecommunication network.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising:
reconstituting, at the target equipment, an audio stream using said modified stream and said at least a subset of the complementary information.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said complementary information includes at least one function to be used by the target equipment to reconstitute an audio stream from said modified stream and said at least a subset of the complementary information.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information comprises:

initially transmitting all of the complementary information to the target equipment; and
decreasing, over time, the amount of complementary information being transmitted to the target equipment.

56. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting audio information, comprising:

an audio information server, comprising:

an analysis system configured to accept an original audio stream and to generate a modified stream and complementary information, wherein a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format of the original audio stream, wherein the modified stream is distorted with respect to the original audio stream by modifying, replacing, substituting, and/or moving at least one element of an audio block of the original audio stream, and wherein the complementary information provides information to permit a decoder to reconstitute the original audio stream from the modified stream;

a device configured to transmit the modified stream to target equipment; and

a device configured to transmit at least a subset of the complementary information to the target equipment.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the audio information server is configured to access a data profile of the target equipment and to determine, based on the data profile, the subset of the complementary information to be transmitted to the target equipment.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the device configured to transmit the modified stream comprises a device to store the modified stream on a physical storage medium.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the device configured to transmit at least a subset of the complementary information to the target equipment comprises a device configured to transmit the at least a subset of the complementary information over a communication medium selected from the group consisting of: an analog telephone line; a digital telephone line; a digital subscriber line; a local radio loop; a digital audio broadcasting channel; a commutated telephone network; and a wireless digital telecommunication network.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said complementary information includes at least one function to be used by the target equipment to reconstitute an audio stream from said modified stream and said at least a subset of the complementary information.

61. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein the audio information server is configured to:

initially transmit all of the complementary information to the target equipment; and
decrease, over time, the amount of complementary information being transmitted to the target equipment.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, further comprising:

an audio coder, coupled to the audio information server, and configured to accept an analog audio stream and to convert the analog audio stream to a digital audio stream to be used by the audio information server as said original audio stream.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the audio information server further comprises:

at least one output buffer memory coupled to receive at least said modified stream from said analysis system.

64. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for receiving transmitted audio information, comprising:

a synthesis system configured to receive a modified stream and at least a subset of a set of complementary information, wherein the modified stream and the complementary information are derived from an original audio stream, and to synthesize a reconstituted audio stream, wherein a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format of the original audio stream, wherein the modified stream is distorted with respect to the original audio stream by modifying, replacing, substituting, and/or moving at least one element of an audio block of the original audio stream, and wherein the complementary information provides information to permit a decoder to reconstitute the original audio stream from the modified stream.

65. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising:

a playback device coupled to the synthesis system to receive the reconstituted audio stream and to play audio corresponding audio on a listening device.

66. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising:

at least one buffer memory to receive and store the modified stream or the received at least a subset of the set of complementary information, wherein said at least one buffer memory is coupled to said synthesis system.

67. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising:

means for coupling a smart card to the synthesis system.

68. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the smart card is configured with a data profile to be used to determine a quantity of complementary information to be received by the apparatus.

69. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein said complementary information includes at least one function to be used by the synthesis system to synthesize the reconstituted audio stream from said modified stream and said at least a subset of the complementary information.